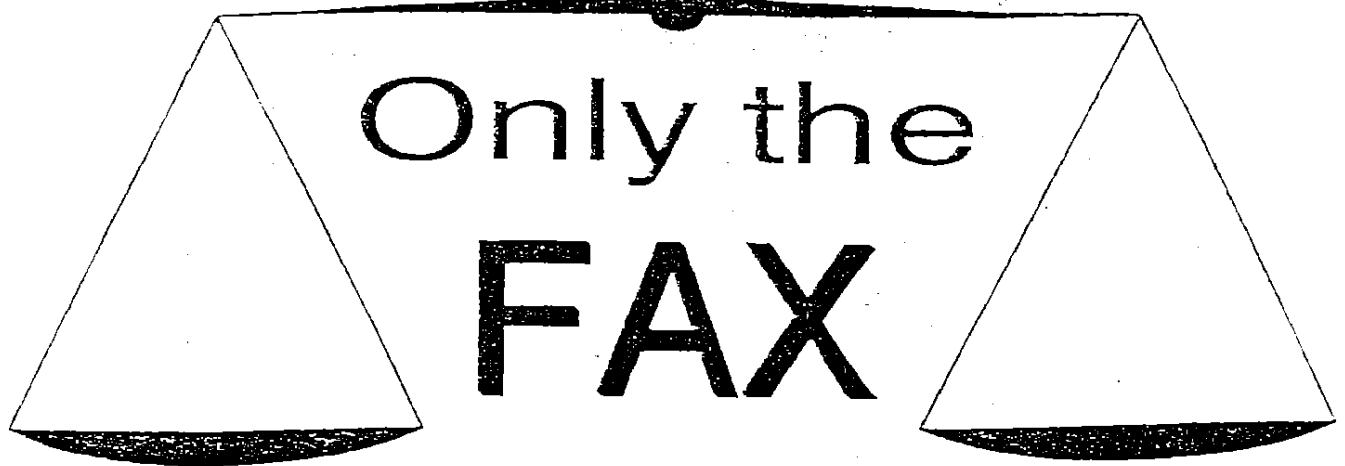


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From the Los Angeles NAACP

To: Honorable Michael Powell

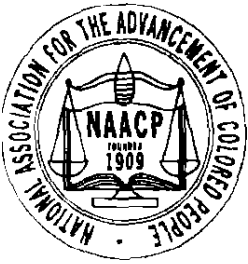
From: Debra L. Washington

Date: 2/12

Number of pages, including a cover: 2

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LOS ANGELES NAACP

"Making The Difference In Our Community"

February 12, 2003

Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20544

Re: CC Docket No. 01-338, Review of the Section 251 Unbundling Obligations of Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers


Dear Commissioner Powell:

As the president of the Los Angeles branch of the NAACP, our community's growth is dependent on access to the latest technologies and advancements in the telecommunications industry-and at a reasonable price. That is why, more than ever, the telecommunications industry's unrest is a serious concern. I am deeply concenied with the situation and how it is affecting the businesses in my community.

It is clear that the telecommunications downturn has reverberations throughout communities nationwide. It is time the FCC creates a level playing field for telecommunications companies to compete on-and looks out for the interest of small businesses.

It is critical that the FCC establishes a national framework governing the telecom industry that encourages investment in infrastructure and creates an environment allowing for long-term, sustainable competition.

Sincerely,


Geraldine R. Washington, Ed.D
President

cc: Commissioner Abemathy
Commissioner Adelstein
Commissioner Marti
Commissioner Copps